

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1091

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

O 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AND VISITING USG ANALYSTS ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY FOR PETROLEUM ECONOMIC AND LEGAL AFFAIRS, SHAIKH ALI KHALIFA AL-SABAH, MADE FIRST MENTION BY GOK OFFICIAL OF WHICH WE AWARE OF MAJOR GAS FIELD IN OFF-SHORE CONCESSION AREA PRESENTLY HELD BY SHELL. HE INDICATED GOK HOPES GAS FROM THIS FIELD WILL BE AVAILABLE BY LATTER PART 1970S, ALTHOUGH HE MADE CRYPTIC REMARK CLOUDING WHETHER SHELL WILL RETAIN CONCESSION.

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2. SHELL HAS NEVER PRODUCED OIL OR GAS FROM CONCESSION BECAUSE BOUNDARIES WITH IRAN, IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA HAVE NEVER BEEN COMPLETELY AGREED UPON. ALI KHALIFA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GAS FIELD IS 70 PERCENT WITHIN UNDISPUTED KUWAITI AREA. SHELL OFF-SHORE CONCESSION IS IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF JAPANESE-OWNED ARABIAN OIL COMPANY OFF-SHORE CONCESSION. AOC, A JOINT KUWAITI-SAUDI CONCESSIONNAIRE, IS ALSO THOUGHT TO HAVE IMPORTANT UNASSOCIATED GAS FIELDS IN ITS CONCESSION AREA.

3. COMMENT: AN
IMPORTANT IMPLICATION OF SHAIKH ALI'S REMARKS
IS THAT IF A SIGNIFICANT INDEPENDENT SOURCE OF GAS BECOMES AVAILABLE, A PROD TO RAISE KUWAITI OIL PRODUCTION WILL DIS-
APPEAR. PRESENTLY, FOR KUWAIT GAS REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET
(FOR WATER, INDUSTRY, ETC) CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION MUST BE AT
LEAST 1.7 MILLION BPD IN SUMMER AND 1.4 MILLION BPD IN WINTER.
PRESENT DEVELOPMENT PLANS, IF CARRIED OUT HOWEVER, COULD RESULT
IN AS MUCH AS 3 MILLION BPD CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION BEING REQUIRED
BY LATE

1970S. THIS WOULD NO LONGER BE SO, HOWEVER, IF AN
INDEPENDENT SOURCE OF GAS BECOMES AVAILABLE BY THEM.

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